

TO: Members of the California Library Community

FROM: Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California

DATE: June 14, 2002

SUBJECT: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Program

I am pleased to announce the fiscal year 2003/2004 program of grant awards in California from federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. Application materials are available via the Internet or will be mailed on request to any interested person.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis for the 2003/04 funds available. Generally speaking, the broad goal of LSTA is to provide local assistance to all types of libraries in the areas of technology innovation, resource-sharing, multitype library networking, and targeted services to people who are underserved, disadvantaged, geographically isolated, illiterate, etc.

During a period of transition while a successor Plan is being developed, the State Library continues to follow the California State Plan for Use of LSTA funds, 1997/98 – 2001/02. Based on section 212 of the Act, the State Plan for 1998 - 2002 was approved by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services in September 1997. In the plan we defined four State-level purposes for which we are using the funds. They are:

1. Free and convenient access to learning and information resources through libraries of all types for individuals of all ages.
2. Library services available in all parts of the state that provide all users access, through state, regional, national and international electronic networks, to information resources they require to meet their diverse, changing, and expanding educational, economic, knowledge, social, cultural, recreational, and life fulfillment needs.
3. Development and implementation of the necessary electronic and resource-sharing linkages among and between libraries to support California's multitype library network development.
4. Promotion and enhancement of targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds; to individuals with disabilities; and to people with limited functional literacy or information skills.

These broad goals are intended to encourage flexibility, allowing us to base grant decisions on needs identified by the California library community. We intend to keep the program's scope as open-ended as allowable under the Act and federal regulations.

A new State Plan for the period 2002/03 – 2006/07 will be published July 31, 2002. At that time the

new Plan will be placed on the State Library Web site and made available to prospective applicants. The provisions of the new Plan will then apply to projects submitted for 2003/04. Applicants should consult the new Plan in formulating their projects as soon as possible after it is issued.

Other important changes to be aware of:

1. All applicants should take note of the realignment of the LSTA grant period with the State of California fiscal year. Information about this process is included in a flyer in the application packet. Approved grant projects will begin on July 1, 2003, and conclude on June 30, 2004.

2. Instructions are pending regarding the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which may have a bearing on certain applicants' decisions to seek LSTA funding. CIPA attaches requirements to the use of federal funds by public libraries and school libraries to purchase computers or service used to access the Internet. In a suit filed by ALA and the ACLU, decided in late May, the CIPA was found unconstitutional and was struck down by a court in Pennsylvania, with respect to LSTA grants. It is unclear at this date whether the court decision holds CIPA in abeyance until such time as an appeal is pursued and a decision on that is issued. If CIPA is declared to remain in effect for certain libraries continuing to be subject to the Act, that will take effect with LSTA grants made for FY 2002/03 (starting October 1, 2002). Further information about the court decision and potential compliance by libraries applying for LSTA is forthcoming from the federal government and, when available, will be posted on the State Library Web site.

3. For the future -- new in 2004/05 will be the integration into project planning and implementation of Outcomes Measures (OM) as the preferred form of project evaluation. The State Library is phasing in this method over a two-year period using a limited number of selected projects to test and refine the method. Candidates for test projects are chosen by State Library staff in cooperation with the applicant staff. Information on OM is included in the packet. More information will be furnished to grant applicants in the future.

Libraries of all types - academic, corporate, institutional, public, school, and special - are eligible for grants. The basic application procedure has two stages: first, a proposal for a grant concept is submitted, followed after review by advice to the applicant from the State Librarian regarding the competitiveness of the proposed project. Completed applications may then be submitted, with awards announced after decision by the State Librarian. Detailed instructions may be found in the application packet.

The timeline (subject to change) for application and grant processing is as follows:

June 2002	Application Packet for 2003/04 available
November 2002*	Proposals due at Library Development Services, State Library
January 2003*	Advice Decisions by State Librarian; Advice letters on Proposals mailed
March 2003*	Applications due at Library Development Services
June 2003*	Awards announced
July 1, 2003	Start of 2003/04 projects
June 30, 2004	End of projects

\*Consult the Planning Calendar in the packet for tentative date.

If you would like to apply for an LSTA grant for 2003/04 or are interested in the program and wish to know more about it, an updated application packet will be available on the California State

Library Web site at [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov). Go to "Highlights" and click on LSTA Grants. Or send your request **(together with a mailing label, please)** to:

Library Development Services  
ATTN: LSTA Application Packet  
California State Library  
P.O. Box 942837  
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Note that the packet now displayed on the Web site is for 2002/2003. However, that material may be used for general guidance until it is replaced by the revised packet of information for 2003/2004.

For assistance with LSTA application materials contact Jay Cunningham, LSTA Coordinator, tel. (916) 653-8112; e-mail: [jcunningham@library.ca.gov](mailto:jcunningham@library.ca.gov).

Enclosure

*KOS:jlc:lstaann034*